

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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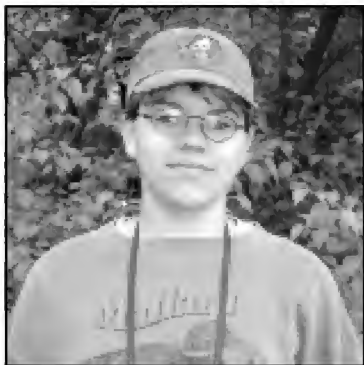
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FRONT COVER: Horned Lark in seed corn company research fields in the middle of Johnston, Polk Co., mid-January to 28 February 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA

Meet An Iowa Birder — Danny Akers

Robert I. Cecil



Danny Akers

Most of us might not let our sons to grow up to be cowboys, but most would like them to grow up to be birders. While a small number of us have had the good fortune to be followed in our avocation by our children, for many others it has been an unfulfilled desire. But if you are still looking for that perspective from the other side of the age divide, you might talk to Danny Akers, 15, of Garnavillo.

Danny, easily Iowa's most eager teenaged birder, was born on 31 January 1988 in Guttenburg, Iowa. Now in 9th grade, he is an honor roll student at Clayton Ridge High School. Many of us, through the IOU listserv, have followed his reports for several years, watching him mature from an enthusiastic neophyte to a valued contributor, presenting insightful and well-written comments. His exceptional writing ability must have impressed his English teacher when he recently turned in a 16-page report on Iowa's vireos, peer reviewed by

none other than Ann Johnson, chair of the IOU Records Committee. Not unexpectedly, Danny received an "A" on the assignment.

Danny's beginnings at birding are a bit fuzzy, with no real transformational event or experience. He does recall visiting his baby-sitter as a child and watching the Goldfinches at the feeder. And then, at age 11, he began using a bird book to try to identify birds, with somewhat mixed results. He enjoyed telling the story of incorrectly identifying a European Starling as a Black Rail (well, they both are black and have small white spots!). Danny's interest in birds and birding grew, due in part to the support by adults who encouraged him. The naturalist at the Osborn Nature Center in Clayton County realized his potential as a birder and fostered his interest. Iowa naturalist, photographer, author, and general Renaissance man Larry Stone also saw the potential in this bright student and helped him to become familiar with the area's birds and birding areas.

Using the Internet, Danny began to cast his net more widely in search of information about his developing passion. In September of 1999, he was having difficulty identifying some white herons he had seen at Sabula and on the search engine Google began searching for information on Iowa birds. Inevitably, he found his way to the IOU website, Iowabirds.org, and Ann Johnson. He sent her an e-mail with the heron question. She recalls being a bit bewildered by the individual's naiveté, but in her usual gracious manner, responded. They exchanged a few more e-mails, while Ann grew increasingly curious about this person, with his simple writing and rather fundamental questions. The confusion vanished when Ann received another e-mail from Danny. He explained that he was a 12 year old and was not a member of the IOU, but wondered if it would be possible to attend the spring 2000 meeting at nearby Strawberry Point anyway. Ann recalled that the IOU had a scholarship provision and arranged for Danny to attend his first IOU meeting

and to become a member. Ann has continued to be Danny's mentor and friend, taking him under her wing both electronically and at IOU meetings.

The one individual who always stood most solidly behind Danny is his mother, Pam. While she never expected to be the mom of an avid birder — following the family's passion for Chicago baseball was probably a safer bet — she began to take him birding and to encourage him at home. She also enabled many of us to meet this young man for the first time by bringing him to the meeting.

Danny soon began making contributions to the seasonal Field Reports, submitting documentations of rare birds, and extensively using the IOU listserv to post observations, report life birds, ask questions, and share thoughts — allowing many of us to follow and enjoy his growth as a birder. Despite the difficulty of birding without a car, Danny still gets in a lot of birding. Being a member of the school golf team, he notes that while his game is not perfected, he gets around to some good habitat, seeing a Solitary Sandpiper and one of this spring's Red-breasted Nuthatches. The yard has been perhaps his best birding spot. It is within the small community of Garnavillo, but because of the mix of mature deciduous trees and conifers, he has the best habitat in town. A Wood Thrush is the best bird among the 42 species on his yard list; another excellent find was a wintering Chipping Sparrow, one of a handful of such northerly records. His state list stands at 192, including the eight new birds added at the spring 2003 IOU meeting in Waterloo. It was here that he got one of his best birds, a nonsinging White-eyed Vireo identified by eye color and yellow "spectacles." In addition to active birding, Danny finds other ways to assist in efforts involving Iowa's birds. His work on nominating sites for the Iowa Important Bird Areas projects recently earned him Eagle Optics Ranger 8 x 42 binoculars contributed by Eagle Optics.

Future plans include birding, of course. He would like to bird many more areas in Iowa; with regard to more distant locations, he would like to bird the Black Hills. Longer-range plans include a career in meteorology. As a young child, Danny watched The Weather Channel rather than Big Bird — it was there he learned his colors and numbers and it was there he became fascinated by the weather. Besides, he points out, "it is a good way to know when to go out and look for birds."

Danny isn't sure there is any magic formula to encourage children to be birders, but he has some ideas. Start at a young age, pointing out common birds and talking about them. Get some feeders and use them — it worked on Danny. As the child grows older, take them out, showing them more species. Among people his age, he notes that many of them like to hunt and fish — getting them more interested in birds involves their increased awareness of the sights and sounds of natural areas.

Wherever Danny's road takes him, I can say for all of us who have had the privilege of meeting him that we hope that he will be happy, do well, keep birding, and that he stays around as long as possible so that we can continue to enjoy his company and marvel at his enthusiasm!

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Field Reports — Winter 2002–2003

Robert I. Cecil



Robert I. Cecil

WEATHER

I remember comparing the weather on the Decatur County spring bird count — cold, rainy, and miserable, with the Saylorville Christmas Bird Count — warm, bright, and delightful. This pretty much typified the first half of the winter, and seduced many of us into wondering if it would be a repeat of last winter. December, for example, averaged 6.3 degrees above normal, the 22nd warmest in 130 years of reporting. January started out great — on the 8th, temperatures were in the 60s in most of the state. The tide turned mid-month and on the 23rd, Sibley posted -18 degrees, the coldest temperature of the season. Overall, temperatures were average for January. February was slightly colder than normal, ranking 48th coldest in 131 years of reporting. Temperature-wise, it averaged out to a normal winter. Precipitation, though, was scant, producing the 5th driest winter in 130 years of reporting. The normal winter precipitation for Iowa is about 3 inches.

GENERAL TRENDS

Along with the average winter was an average birding season. Unlike last year, the winter's warm start did not induce most waterfowl or any unusual shorebirds into lingering much past mid-December. Raptor numbers were normal and there were few other significant reports through passerines. Among those, wrens stayed in above average numbers, and all three mimids were reported. Three species of warblers was about usual for recent years. A few sparrows toughed it out in northern Iowa and good numbers of White-throated Sparrows wintered around the state. No large roosts of wintering icterids were noted, and, typically, winter finches stayed home — for example, there were no crossbills and only one Common Redpoll.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported include Brant (second consecutive year), Barrow's Goldeneye (second consecutive year), and Black-headed Grosbeak. There were no casual species reported. Reports of very late birds include Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented)

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species

Common Loon: Only 1, at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. on 11–20 Dec (AB, RLC).

Pied-billed Grebe: All: 1 on 1 Jan (THK) and 2 on 29 Jan to 16 Feb (MCD) at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids.

American White Pelican: There were 4 on 30 Dec (AB) and 1 on 18 Jan (PH) at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co.

Double-crested Cormorant: The most northerly were 2 on 6 Dec at Ada Hayden P. (formerly Hallett's Quarry) in Ames (WO), 1 on 6 Dec at West Okoboji L. in Dickinson Co. (ETH), and 1 on 11 Dec in Marshall Co. (MPR). There were 5 other reports through 25 Dec.

Great Blue Heron: There were 5 January reports; the most northerly was 1 on 19 Jan in Ida Co. (PE).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A juvenile on 24 and 25 Jan at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids continued the streak there to five consecutive winters (BSc).

Turkey Vulture: A single on the Iowa City CBC was unusual; 1 on 9 Jan at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. was remarkable (LAS).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Late were 7 on 29 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE), 13 on 1 Jan at the Johnson Gravel Pits in Polk Co. (DT), and 2 on 18 Jan at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MCD). Returning migrants included 6 on 13 Feb at Diamond L. (MPR) and 1 on 18 Feb at Saylorville Res. (JGi).

Snow Goose: January reports were of 1 to 3 birds from Hardin, Johnson, and Linn, and Boone Counties. A single on 13 Feb at Ames was thought to be returning (WO).

Ross's Goose: There were four singles: 8 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 13 Dec at W. Lake Okoboji (LAS), 14 to 18 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB), and 25 to 31 Dec at Ada Hayden P. (SJD, JGi, JJD, WO).

Canada Goose: Reported wintering by the thousands in several areas, including up to 7,000 in two Cerro Gordo Co. locations (PH, CJF). A *hutchins* subspecies wintering at Mabaska Pond in Boone Co. was banded at Baffin Island (JJD).

BRANT: A *hrota* eastern race bird through 11 Dec was at Union Grove SP in Tama Co. (*MPR, AB-photo, *MCD, *JJD, CJF-details).

Mute Swan: In addition to 2 CBC reports, there were 2 on 1 Jan through the period at Decorah (DeC) and 2 on 12(18 Jan in Des Moines (BE, MPR-details, CJF-details, MCD, PH, RCe, RLC). The origin of one in Marion Co. was suspect (AB).

Trumpeter Swan: All: 4 unbanded birds on 1 to 16 Jan at Lake Manawa SP in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 3 on 9 Jan in Muscatine Co. (JLF), 3 on 9 Feb at Ada Hayden P. in Ames (WO), 1 on 15 Feb in Des Moines (BE), and up to 6 wintering in Mason City (CJF PH).

Tundra Swan: Impressive was 6,000 on 1 Dec at Heytman's Station A. near Lansing in Allamakee Co. The birds left that day, leaving 1 probably injured bird to winter (DeC, DT). There was 1 on 9 Feb at Ingham L. in Emmet Co. (ETH).

Wood Duck: Wintering was 1 on Cedar Lake (THK, MCD). There were 2 in Iowa City on 4 Feb (MCD).

Gadwall: January reports of from 1 to 5 birds were from Lee, Woodbury, and Linn Counties.

American Wigeon: January reports include 1 or 2 on 2 and 3 Jan at Mason City (RGo, PH), and 1 on 6 Jan in Poweshiek Co. (MPR).

American Black Duck: The high count was 21 on 22 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD, AB). There were 23 additional reports of 1–9 birds rather evenly distributed from around the state and throughout the season.

Mallard: Peak counts were 22,500 on 11 Dec at Rathbun Res. (AB), 3,800 on 22–24 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 2,560 on 23 Dec at Green Valley L. in Union Co. (SJD), 6,100 on Mississippi R. Pool 19 in Lee Co. (SJD), and 5,200 on 30 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB). Returning birds were noted on 16 Feb in Woodbury Co. (GLV).

Northern Shoveler: The latest were 2 on 2 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH) and 15 on 2 Feb at Ottumwa (JJD).

Northern Pintail: The most northerly were 4 on 21 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH). There were about 10 other reports of 1 or 2 birds from throughout the season, all in the southern half of the state.

Green-winged Teal: The high count by far was 41 on 5 Jan at Storm L. in Buena Vista Co. (PE). There were no reports from 8 Jan to 23 Feb when 7 appeared at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Canvasback: High counts, as expected, came from Pool 19 in Lee County with 3,400 on 26 Dec (SJD). Others included 1 on 5 Jan at Storm L. (PE), 1 on 18 Jan in Polk Co. (PH), and 300 on 4 Feb on the Mississippi R. in Des Moines Co. (THK).

Redhead: Small numbers were reported in the southern half of Iowa during the CBC period. There were 6 on 25 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE); returning were 2 on 16 Feb at Cedar L. (MCD), 6 on 20 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), and 9 on 20 Feb at Saylorville Res. (JJD).

Ring-necked Duck: The peak by far was 725 on 20 Dec and 40 on 26 Dec on Pool 19 of the Mississippi R. (SJD). The only mid-winter record was of 2 on 18 Jan at Red Rock Res. (MCD). Migrants included 2 on 20 Feb at L. Manawa in southern Iowa (BKP/LJP) and 8 on 24 Feb at Clear Lake in northern Iowa (PH).

Greater Scaup: The 27 on 20 Dec at Pool 19 increased to a remarkable 184 on 26 Dec (SJD). Other reports include 10 on 7 Dec at Lock and Dam 14 of the Mississippi R. in Scott County (MCD-details), 6 on 14

Dec and 5 on 30 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB), 1 through 9 Jan at Ada Hayden P. in Ames (WO, SJD-details, JJD), 4 on 4 Feb at Green Bay Access in Lee Co. (THK), and 8 on 22 Feb on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (RLC).

Lesser Scaup: Counts of 960 on 20 Dec and 140 on 26 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD) were low for the area. Oddly, 1 to 4 appeared around the state on 2 Feb: Ottumwa (JJD), Geode P. in Henry Co. (JJD), Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. (HZ), and Clear Lake (PH) and 20 were at Green Bay Access in Lee Co. on 4 Feb (THK). Returning birds included 6 on 18 Feb at Saylorville (JGi) and 6 on 24 Feb at Clear L. (CJF).

White-winged Scoter: All: 1 on 1 Dec at Big Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 1 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji L. (CJF, RGo), 1 on the Keokuk CBC (ABr), and 3 on 26 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD).

Black Scoter: All: 1 juv. on 20 to 26 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD-details).

Long-tailed Duck: All: up to 3 on 1 to 2 Dec at West Okoboji L. (ETH, RGo, CJF), 2 on 21 and 22 Dec at the Johnson Gravel Pits in Polk Co. (SJD, AB), and up to 5 on 26 Dec to 4 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD, MCD).

Bufflehead: The only reports away from the Mississippi R. were 6 on 2 Dec at West Okoboji L. (CJF) and 1 on 4 to 24 Dec at Ada Hayden P. (WO, SJD).

Common Goldeneye: The high count was 6,700 on 26 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD). Mid-winter inland reports include 22 on 25 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE), up to 36 from 7 Jan through the period at Maffitt Res. near Des Moines (JGi), and 1 on 18 Jan in Des Moines (PH). A single bird on 10 to 13 Feb in Winneshiek Co. (MPr) may have been a migrant, as were 17 on 17 Feb in Woodbury Co. (GLV) and 1 on 21 Feb in Story Co. (JJD).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: There was 1 on 17 to 21 Dec at the Port Neal Ponds in Woodbury Co. (*GLV, *BFH).

Hooded Merganser: Up to 3 on 2 to 3 Jan were in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo, PH). The only report following the CBC period was of 14 on 29 Jan at Cedar L. (MCD).

Common Merganser: From 500 to 2,500 were reported on the Mississippi R. and the major reservoirs until mid-January, the latest at Red Rock (PH). The 100 on 4 Feb in Lee Co. (THK) were probably wintering; returnees included 3 on 17 Feb and 8 on 23 Feb in Woodbury Co. (GLV, BFH), 180 on 20 Feb at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), and 1 on 24 Feb at Clear L. (CJF).

Red-breasted Merganser: There were five reports of 1 to 3 birds between 13 to 26 Dec from around the state. The latest, a 1st winter male on 29 Jan at Cedar L. (MCD-details) is an unusual mid-winter record.

Ruddy Duck: All: 12 on 20 Dec and 3 on 26 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD). Thousands were here in December 2000 and 2002.

Bald Eagle: Several observers from northern and central Iowa noted the increasing number of wintering birds.

Northern Harrier: The high count by far was 7 on 12 Jan at Big M. in Butler Co. (BPr, MPr). There were 20 other post-CBC reports of 1 to 3 birds from throughout the season, primarily in the southern half of the state.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Up to 3 wintered in Woodbury Co., with 1 attacking the Varied Thrush (BFH), and 3 different birds passed through a Clayton Co. yard (DAK). There were about 7 other birds reported from throughout the state and season.

Cooper's Hawk: There were 7 singles in central Iowa during the season (MPr). There were about 10 other reports from throughout the season and state. An adult on 15 Jan in Indianola was rescued after a storm, de-iced, and released unharmed (JSi).

Northern Goshawk: The most southerly was 1 or 2 in Ames on 26 Dec to 3 Jan (Nick Osness-details fide JJD) and 14 Jan (Larry Dau-details fide JJD). The remaining seven reports came from the northern three tiers of counties.

***Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 1 ad. on 14 Dec at Grammer Grove A. in Marshall Co. (MPr), 1 ad. on 26 Jan near Danville in Des Moines Co. (MCD), and 1 ad. on 11-23 Feb near Camp Dodge in Polk Co. (JGi-photo, DT). The latter bird ate suet at a feeder (DT). (Is this the same bird?)

Red-tailed Hawk: There is increasing interest in identifying this species to race; for example, 6 Harlan's and 2 Western birds were described or photographed.

Rough-legged Hawk: There were 22 reports of up to 3 birds from throughout the season and the state.

Golden Eagle: There was 1 on 7 Dec at the usual Allamakee Co. location (RGo, PH). Others were 1 on 26 Dec in Lee Co. (SJD-details), 1 on 4 Jan in Buena Vista Co. (PE), 1 on 25 Jan in Clayton Co. (DAK-details), and 1 on 6 to 26 Feb in O'Brien Co. (DK, ETh, LAS).

Merlin: There were five reports from after the CBC period from around the state.

Peregrine Falcon: All: 1 on 19 Dec to 23 Feb at Clinton (PVN-details), 1 on 6 Jan in downtown Davenport (SFr), and 1 on 18 Jan in Des Moines (PH).

Prairie Falcon: All: 1 on 6 Feb on a ledge at Old Central High School in Sioux City, a perch used in previous years (GLV).

Gray Partridge: The most between two reports was 9 on 19 Feb at the Pioneer research field "in the middle of Johnston," Polk Co. (JGi). Several observers noted seeing none this winter.

Ruffed Grouse: There were 2 on 1 Feb in Stephens S.F. in south-central Iowa (JSi).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: 1 on 9 Jan in Osceola Co. may have come from releases in Minnesota or a migrant from an established population (Marty Eby-details

fide SJD). There were up to 34 during February at Kellerton A. in Ringgold Co. and 1 on 17 Feb in adjacent Clarke Co. (Ed White fide JJD).

Wild Turkey: There were 117 on 17 Feb in Plymouth Co. GLV).

American Coot: Reports following the CBC period include 1 on 1 and 29 Jan at Cedar L. (THK, MCD), 2 on 5 to 25 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 3 on 22 Feb in Lee Co. (RLC).

Killdeer: The most northerly report was up to 2 on 21 Jan to 13 Feb at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC). A single on 26 Feb in Polk Co. (JGi) may have been returning.

Wilson's Snipe: All: 1 on 20 and 2 on 26 Dec at Montrose (SJD) and 3 on 21 Jan becoming 1 on 19 Feb at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC).

Franklin's Gull: There was an alternate plumaged adult on 22 to 24 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD, AB).

Ring-billed Gull: The peak count by far was of 16,700 on 20 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD). Lingered in northwest Iowa were 7 on 21 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Returning were 36 on 20 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Herring Gull: The peak count was 681 on 24 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Thayer's Gull: All: 1 ad. and 1 juv. on 10 to 24 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB). A second juvenile showed up on 20 Dec (SJD), 1 ad. on 11 Dec at Rathbun Res. (AB), 1 on 13 Dec at West Okoboji L. (LAS), 1 juv. on 15 Dec and 2 adults on 6 to 12 Jan at Lock and Dam 14 and 15 in Scott Co. (SFr), 1 juv. on 21 Dec in Johnston (SJD), 3 ad. and 1 juv. on 22 to 24 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 1 on 4 Jan at Rathbun Res. (RLC), and 1 juv. on 5 to 15 Jan in Des Moines (BE, DT, AJ, MPr).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: 1 ad. on 15 to 17 Jan at Des Moines (*MPr, RCe-details, JJD-details, AJ).

Glaucous Gull: All: 1 1st winter on 7 to 22 Dec at West Okoboji L. (LAS, ETH-details), 1 1st winter on 10 to 13 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB), and 1 1st winter on 5 to 17 Jan in Des Moines (BE, DT, RCe, MPr, JJD).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reported from Cedar, Clay, Dickinson, Guthrie, Henry, Humboldt, Ida, Poweshiek, and Union Counties. High counts were up to 26 on 23 Dec in Union County (JJD, AB), 8 on 7 Dec in Guthrie Co. (WO, MPr-details), and up to 8 on 19 Dec in Poweshiek Co. (MPr-details).

Great Horned Owl: There was 1 pale arctic race bird on 1 Feb at Wolf Creek P in Grundy Co. (MPr).

Snowy Owl: All: 1 or 2 on 25 to 28 Dec in Sioux Co. (JVD), 1 on 3 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 1 on 25 to 27 Jan in Carroll Co. (JGi-photo, WO, MPr, JJD), and 1 on 9 Feb in Palo Alto Co. (ETH).

Long-eared Owl: A banner year, with peaks of 15 on the Saylorville CBC (RCe), 11 on the Worth Co. CBC (RGo, CJF), 10 on 11 Jan in Plymouth Co. (GLV), and 15 in mid-Feb in Iowa Co. (Jim Munson fide JJD). Four or more were reported from Appanoose, Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Johnson, Union, and Worth Counties.

Short-eared Owl: The high count by far was 11 on 1 Dec at Big M. in Butler Co. (MPr/BPr). Other reports were of 1 to 4 from Buchanan, Mahaska, Plymouth, Poweshiek, Warren, Woodbury, and Worth Counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The most were 2 on 3 to 9 Jan at Lime Creek A. near Mason City (PH, RGo, CJF), and 2 wintering at Grammer Grover P in Marshall Co. (MPr). There were eight reports from throughout the season from Clarke, Clay, Johnson, Plymouth, and Worth Counties.

Belted Kingfisher: The most northerly mid-winter reports were of 1 on 13 Feb in Worth Co. (CJF), 1 wintering at Mill Creek P. in O'Brien Co. (DK, LAS), and 2 wintering at the Decorah trout hatchery in Winneshiek Co. (DeC). Photos of a dead bird entangled in some fishing line at Cedar L. appeared on websites, hopefully increasing awareness about careless actions affecting wildlife.

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were reports of 8 birds wintering at each of three southern Iowa locations (AB, RLC, JSi); smaller numbers wintered in northern Iowa.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Post-CBC reports include 1 on 23 Jan at an Iowa City feeder (JLF), and 1 or 2 on 29 Jan to 28 Feb in Warren Co. (JSi).

Northern Flicker: "Red-shafted" forms were noted on 7 Jan at Sioux City (GLV), and on 1 Feb in Plymouth Co. (BFH).

Pileated Woodpecker: Of four reports, the most westerly were 1 on 4 Jan at Woodland Mounds in Warren Co. (JSi) and 1 on 12 Feb at Grammer Grove A. (MPr).

Loggerhead Shrike: All: 1 or 2 on 8 to 14 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on the Johnson Co. CBC, and 1 wintering in Warren Co. (JGi-photo, AJ).

Northern Shrike: There were 16 reports of 19 birds, which, with the exception of 3 in Warren Co. (JSi), were all from the northern half of the state.

Horned Lark: The high count by far was of 3,600 on 29 Jan in O'Brien County (DK). There were four other reports of up to 240 birds from 15 to 22 Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were only six reports of 1 or 2 birds — it was definitely not an invasion year.

Brown Creeper: This species was very easy to find this winter, with reports of multiple birds from throughout the season and the state.

Carolina Wren: The westernmost were 1 in O'Brien Co. (fide JVD), 2 on 21 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 2 on 11 Jan in Sioux City (GLV). There were seven other reports after the CBC period, all from roughly the southern half of Iowa.

Winter Wren: Reports following the CBC period include 1 on 4 Jan at Montrose in Lee Co. (MCD-details), 2 on 8 Jan at Sugar Bottom A. in Johnson Co. (MCD), 1 on 11 Jan to 7 Feb in Sioux City (GLV), 1 on 9 Feb at Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. (JSi), and 1 on 13 Feb at Decorah (DeC).

Marsh Wren: Two reports: 1 on 20 to 26 Dec at Montrose (SJD-details) and 2 on the Shenandoah CBC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The most northerly was 1 on 14 Jan (BFH) and 2 on 17 Feb in Woodbury Co. (GLV). The high count was 8 on 1 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. (JSi).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: In addition to 2 CBC reports, there was 1 on 7 Dec at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), and 1 on 20 Dec in Lee Co. (SJD-photo, details).

Eastern Bluebird: Reports following the CBC period include 9 on 19 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi) and 8 on 17 Feb in Woodbury Co. (GLV).

Townsend's Solitaire: The only report was of 1 on the Cherokee CBC.

Hermit Thrush: Post-CBC reports include 1 on 2 to 7 Jan at the ISU campus (Larry Dau fide JVD), up to 3 on 28 Dec to 19 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi, JGi), 1 on 11 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 15 Feb at Jester P. in Polk Co. (BE), and 1 on 17 Feb at Stone P. in Woodbury Co. (GLV).

American Robin: All reports of more than 40 birds came from the northwestern counties of Clay, and O'Brien, and Woodbury.

Varied Thrush: All: 1 on 7 Dec in Menlo, Guthrie Co. (WO, MPr), 1 on 8 Dec to 11 Jan in Sioux City (*GLV-photo, BFH-photo by Loren Hansen, PE), and 1 on 7 to 8 Dec at Spirit L. (*ETH, LAS).

Gray Catbird: A remarkable showing, with reports from six CBCs. In addition, there was 1 on 23 Dec to 26 Jan in Iowa City (JLF)[second latest], 1 on 23 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. in Johnson Co. (JLF), and 1 on 23 Feb at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH) [record latest].

Northern Mockingbird: All: 1 on the Carroll Co. CBC and 1 on 16 Jan at the Louisa Generating Station, Louisa Co. (JLF).

Brown Thrasher: Completing this year's mimid sweep were 1 on 25 Dec to 26 Jan at Jim Fuller's, 1 on the Humboldt Co. CBC, and 1 that wintered in Mason City (CJF).

American Pipit: There was one CBC report, at Clinton.

Cedar Waxwing: High counts include 50 on 5 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JGi), 200 on 25 Jan in Lee Co. (RLC), 600 on 23 Feb in the Little Sioux R. valley in Clay Co. (LAS), and up to 48 wintering at Spirit L. (ETH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Post-CBC reports include 4 on 22 Dec that diminished to 1 on 19 Jan at L. Ahquabi (JSi) and 1 on 23 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (JLF).

Ovenbird: Unusual was 1 on 17 Dec and again on 15 Jan in Iowa City (Jan McDonald-photo, Steve Eliot) [record latest]. This is the second consecutive winter sighting and about Iowa's sixth winter record; the most recent being last year in Cedar Rapids.

Common Yellowthroat: There was 1 on the Shenandoah CBC.

Spotted Towhee: All reports were from CBCs: 3 at Boone Co., 1 at Saylorville, and 3 at Westfield.

Eastern Towhee: All reports were from CBCs: 2 at Boone Co., 1 at Saylorville, and 1 at North Linn.

Chipping Sparrow: All: 1 on 22 Dec in Sac Co. (ETH) and 1 on the Saylorville CBC.

Field Sparrow: There were reports from 4 CBCs.

Fox Sparrow: All: 2 on 3 Jan at Lime Creek A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), 1 wintering for the second time in 25 years at Sioux Center (JVD), and 1 wintering at Ames (Jim Pease-fide JD).

Song Sparrow: The most northerly were 2 on 28 Dec and 1 on 13 Feb at Decorah (DeC), 1 on 13 Feb at Mason City (CJF), and 1 on 23 Feb at Brown's L. (BFH).

Lincoln's Sparrow: All: 1 on 5 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi-details).

Swamp Sparrow: The only report following the CBC period was of 2 on 7 Jan at Maffitt Res. near Des Moines (JGi).

White-throated Sparrow: This species was widely reported from throughout the state and season. The peak count by far was 27 on 10 Feb at Tom Kent's Iowa City feeder. Other high counts after the CBC period were 8 wintering in Sioux Center (JVD), up to 8 wintering at Mason City (CJF RGo), and 7 wintering near Des Moines (BE).

Harris's Sparrow: Peak counts were 12 wintering in Sioux Center (JVD), up to 8 through the period at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), and 7 wintering near Ames (WO). There were eight other post-CBC reports, all from roughly the western half of the state.

White-crowned Sparrow: The most northerly was 1 wintering at Spirit L. (ETH).

Dark-eyed Junco: There was 1 "pink-sided" on 11 Dec in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), 2 "Oregon" on the Boone CBC, and 1 "Oregon" on 15 to 23 Feb near Ames (WO).

Lapland Longspur: There were 88 on 1 Jan in Worth Co. (PH) but then almost no reports until 60 on 15 Feb in Polk Co. (JGi), 55 on 16 Feb in Johnson Co. (MCD, BSi), 100 on 19 Feb in Mills Co. (BKP/LJP), and 200 on 22 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Snow Bunting: All: 26 on 20 Dec at Rathbun Res. (SJD) and 1 on 23 Dec at Saylorville Res. (JGi).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: There was 1 on 26 Jan to 4 Feb near Danville in Des Moines Co. in southeast Iowa (*MCD, Jim Scheib-photo, *JD, *CE, *THK).

Red-winged Blackbird: Peak midwinter reports included 500 on 18 to 26 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), 250 on 19 Jan in Ida Co. (PE), and 800 on 8 Feb in Warren Co. (JGi). The 1,100 on 16 Feb in Johnson Co. (MCD) and the 400 on 17 Feb in Dickinson Co. (LAS) were probably migrants.

Meadowlark Sp.: The most was 4 on 1 Feb in Linn Co. (RGo).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: There was 1 on 26 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).

Rusty Blackbird: High counts were 12 on 4 Jan in Plymouth Co. (BFH), up to 20 on 18 to 26 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), 12 on 28 Dec and 16 on 19 Feb at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC), and 80 on 22 Feb at Waterman Creek A. (LAS).

Brewer's Blackbird: There were 18 on the Shenandoah CBC.

Common Grackle: The most by far was 40 on 26 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC). There

were nine other reports after the CBC period of 1 to 3 birds, all in the southern half of the state. A single on 28 Feb in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF) was probably returning.

Great-tailed Grackle: There were 30 on Feb 10 but usually fewer through the season in Warren Co. (AJ).

Brown-headed Cowbird: The high count was 500 on 18 to 26 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).

Purple Finch: All: a peak of 7 on 16 Jan in Garnavillo (DAk), 1 on 2 Feb in Des Moines Co. (CE), and 3 on 19 Feb in Marshall Co. (MPr).

Common Redpoll: There was 1 on the Burlington CBC.

Pine Siskin: All: 1 on 14 Jan at Garnavillo (DAk) and 1 on 18 Feb in Iowa Falls, Hardin Co. (MPr).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: There were up to 2 on 26 Dec to 8 Jan at Montrose (SJD, MPr/BPr).

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Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2002–2003

Aaron Brees



Aaron Brees

The 2002–2003 Iowa Christmas Bird Count (CBC) included reports from 46 locations (Table 1, Figure 1). This is the third year in a row that the number of counts has increased. Counts that were not run or did not report this season included De Soto National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Jefferson County, and Van Buren County. New or returning counts included Westfield, Humboldt County, Southeast Webster County, Taylor County, and Siam-Hopkins. The total species count of 135 was slightly above the average of 132. The total number of birds recorded this year was 526,396. This exceeds the 10-year average of 454,951 even without the tens of thousands of Snow Geese that would typically have been reported from the De Soto count.

For the second year in a row, the count period experienced unseasonably mild weather. Temperatures in the 40s and 50s were common and only Sioux City reported a high that was below freezing. No counts reported snow; however, a cold snap during the week prior to the first counts left many areas with at least partially frozen ponds, lakes, and rivers. While more species were recorded this year, only a few counts were able to match the excellent individual count totals of last season. The high count this year was once again Keokuk (80). Other high counts from the Mississippi River included Burlington (73) and Davenport (73). Along the Missouri River, Sioux City was the high count with 69 species. Spirit Lake led the Northern Third with 58 species. In the Middle Third, Saylorville (73) was the high count, followed closely by Iowa City (71) and Cedar Rapids (70). In the Southern Third, Rathbun was the top count with 69 species. The average count this season had 14 participants, 5.5 field parties, and recorded 53 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

The 2002–2003 count season provided an interesting mix of common wintering birds, late migrants, and lingering semi-hardy species. All species are recorded in Table 2. Table 3 shows those species found on three or fewer counts. When reading comparisons made to past year's totals and averages, keep in mind the addition of several new counts from previously under represented areas, as well as the absence of one major count.

The season's warm weather did not translate into exceptional waterbird totals in most cases. Cold weather prior to the count period caused many lakes to freeze and birds to leave. Rathbun produced the only Common Loon, a species that has become a near-annual count bird in recent years. Pied-billed Grebe was the only grebe found this year, with all five individuals being found on eastern river counts. Of the eight pelicans reported, one at Sioux City was at an unexpected location, while four of the five lingering at Red Rock were in noticeably poor health. Double-crested Cormorants (31) were found in average numbers, with all but the one at Marshalltown being at expected big river or reservoir locations. It was an excellent year for Great Blue Herons. The 186 found nearly doubled the 10-year

average of 98. Over 80% were found on Mississippi River counts, with an impressive count of 81 at Burlington.

It was a mixed year for waterfowl. A handful of species were extremely numerous, while most were found in below average numbers. Greater White-fronted Geese were found in good numbers for the second year in a row. Although not as impressive as last year's count of 321, this year's total of 44 birds seems to be the third highest CBC total so far. This year's Snow Goose (18,470) total is artificially low and not very meaningful without a count from De Soto NWR, where tens of thousands of geese were present during the count period. Of the snows reported, over 99% were found on Missouri River counts. Nine Ross's Geese were reported, of which two-thirds were from the Missouri River valley. Nine is more than twice the 10-year average for this under reported species. Canada Goose was the most abundant species reported this season, as its numbers continue to rise. This year 105,306 were counted — more than twice the 10-year average. Surprisingly, the largest concentration was found in the north where 20,390 were at Spirit Lake.

Trumpeter Swans (25) were found in decent numbers, following last year's record high count of 37. Three swans were reported as neck-collared while the other 22 did not carry obvious bands or tags. Nine Tundra Swans were found on the Mississippi River at Princeton and Clinton. This is down from last year's unprecedented 974 and the 10-year average of 155. Single Mute Swans were found at Cedar Falls-Waterloo and Clinton. While the origin of these birds is uncertain, both compilers considered them likely to be wild, and the locations are plausible spots for wild birds to appear.

Except for Mallard and American Black Duck, dabblers were found in below average numbers. Wood Ducks (19) were below the 10-year average of 32. They were most commonly found along the Mississippi River (9 birds on 6 counts) while none were found in the Southern Third. Both Gadwall (210) and American Wigeon (43) were found at less than half the 10-year averages, and like Wood Duck, were nearly absent from the Southern Third counts. American Black Duck (236) had a great year with the best count since the early 1990s. Nearly half were found at Clinton (116). Mallard (83,032) numbers were off from last year, but still well above the 10-year average of 66,082. By far the largest count was 25,281 at Shenandoah. The Northern Shoveler (130) count was well below the average of 377. Saylorsville (97) accounted for 75% of the total, while none were found in the Northern or Southern thirds. Northern Pintail (41) was also well off the average of 5,360. Small numbers were reported from all sections of the state, with most being in the Middle (19) and Southern (10) thirds. Green-winged Teal (78) numbers were boosted by a good count from Shenandoah (46) but were still below the 10-year average of 227.

Diving duck numbers were mixed this year. With the exception of Spirit Lake, divers had completely abandoned the Northern Third by the start of the count period. As usual, the Mississippi River accounted for the vast majority of divers, except for mergansers, which were concentrated on the large reservoirs. Canvasback (15,092) numbers were nearly twice the 10-year average, but were typical of years when a large flock lingers at Keokuk as 15,000 did this season. Redheads (22) were scarce and well below the average of 80. Ring-necked Duck (282) numbers were also extremely low. The largest concentration was on the Mississippi River at Keokuk (169, 60% of total). After last year's unexpected "invasion," Greater Scaup (11) numbers dropped back below the 10-year average of 35. Lesser Scaup (1,216) were close to the average of 1265, with 90% being from Mississippi River counts. A very good fall for scoters in Iowa did not carry over to the Christmas count season. The only scoter found was a White-winged at Keokuk. Only two Long-tailed Ducks were

found, both at Des Moines. Bufflehead (66) and Common Goldeneye (2,290) were both below their respective averages of 179 and 3,785. Fifty-nine percent of the Buffleheads and 63% of the goldeneyes were on the Mississippi River. Hooded Merganser (160) had a second consecutive above average count. Good numbers were found in the Middle (55) and Southern (30) thirds as well as the Mississippi River (64). Common Mergansers (24,104) were found at nearly three times the 10-year average. Rathbun (10,000) provided the highest count, while Red Rock (8,300) and Saylorville (3,500) also had sizable flocks. Also of note, Common Mergansers were found on 25 of 46 counts — a high percentage for this species, which seems to prefer large, open bodies of water. Nine Red-breasted Mergansers were found, well below the average of 20. All were from counts that reported fairly large flocks of Common Mergansers. Thirteen Ruddy Ducks were found this year, with 12 at Keokuk and an unexpected single at Sioux City. Although not apparent this season, this species seems to have increased greatly as a lingering bird in early winter. The average count from 1986/1987–1996/1997 was 23. From 1997/1998 to the present, the average has been 1,153.

All but two counts recorded Bald Eagle (2,579). It was a good year for this species whose 10-year average is 1,633. Northern Harriers (106) had a second consecutive above average count season and were widely reported except in the Northern Third. It was an excellent year for our two common accipiters. Sharp-shinned Hawk (68) and Cooper's Hawk (73) were both well above the respective averages of 51 and 41. Northern Goshawk (5) was found in average numbers. Surprisingly none were found in the Northern Third. Red-shouldered Hawk (11) was well above the average of six. As usual, all were found in eastern Iowa except for one at Omaha. Red-tailed Hawks (1,928) were reported from all counts this year. This total seems to be the second highest ever for the species. Rough-legged Hawk (88) had another below average year in terms of total numbers. However, it was widespread, being found on 70% of counts. American Kestrel (677) had an excellent count, surpassing the 10-year average of 585. It was reported from all counts, with a larger than normal number sticking it out in the Northern Third. Merlins (7) were reported from six scattered locations. Of the three identified to subspecies, one of the Sioux City birds and the Ida County bird were believed to be *columbarius* while the Cherokee bird was identified as *richardsonii*. Single Peregrine Falcons were found at Cedar Rapids and Davenport.

Another early winter without snow meant another count season with few gallinaceous birds. Gray Partridge (3) beat last year's record low count of four, with Ames being the only count reporting the species. Decorah and Yellow River Forest both found single Ruffed Grouse. Wild Turkey (1,404) continues to be extremely common and widespread. Counts of 90+ birds were made in all areas of the state except the Northern Third. Ring-necked Pheasant (573) numbers were up from last year, but were still well below the 10-year average of 1,601. Northern Bobwhite (54) numbers were also up from last year, but were below the average of 162. Mississippi and Missouri river counts combined for 98% of the quail total.

American Coots (30) had a poor season despite the warm weather. The Mississippi River accounted for 70% of coots reported, with 15 birds at Green Island being the largest concentration. Shorebird numbers were also somewhat low. Killdeer (30) were below the average of 52, while Wilson's Snipe (34) were only a little off the average of 38. The Mississippi River counts had 57% of the Killdeer and 76% of the snipe. Gulls provided few surprises this year, with only four species being found. Ring-billed Gull (29,059) was

above the average of 23,330. Nearly 65% were found at the Southern Third reservoir counts including 18,000 at Red Rock. Herring Gulls (1,935) on the other hand, were most common along the Mississippi River (58% of the total). Thayer's (4) and Glaucous (2) gulls were found in slightly below average numbers. Except for a Glaucous at Spirit Lake, all were found on the Mississippi River or at large reservoirs.

Rock Dove (11,105) numbers continued to increase after a big drop three years ago. Maybe not coincidentally, the two counts with the highest Rock Dove totals (1,003 at Cedar Rapids and 1,637 at Davenport) were the two counts that found Peregrine Falcons. After being missed last year, Eurasian Collared-Doves were back in record numbers. Four counts found a total of 40 birds, surpassing the previous high of 7. The Union County total of 26 is the highest count for Iowa, regardless of time of year. Mourning Doves (5,044) were found at nearly twice the 10-year average of 2,765. Sixty percent of the total, and most of the individual high counts, were from the Mississippi River.

Overall, it was a good year for owls. The Eastern Screech-Owl (126) total was well above the average of 92, and Barred Owls (132) were similarly above the average of 105. Great Horned Owl (209) was right at the average and it was found on all but six counts. The previous high count for Long-eared Owl seems to have been 58, so this year's total of 99 is extremely impressive. Three counts reported double-digit totals: Saylorville (20), Westfield (14), and Worth County (11). Small numbers of Short-eared Owls (12) were scattered all across the state except for the Northern Third. This species was found in below average numbers for the fourth year in a row. Northern Saw-whet Owls (10) were found well above the average of 5. This is the best total since 11 were found during the 1995–1996 count. The 193 Belted Kingfishers counted this year seems to be the highest total ever and is nearly double the 10-year average.

All woodpeckers were found in above average numbers this season. Red-headed Woodpeckers (280) were widespread, being missed by only nine counts. The Red-bellied (2,028) and Pileated (91) woodpecker counts are new record highs. All of the Pileateds were in the eastern half of the state, with the western-most birds being two at Marshalltown. Downy (2,889) and Hairy (598) woodpeckers and Northern Flicker (701) were all found in above average numbers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (21) were well above the 10-year average of 14 and were reported from all but the Northern Third. Loggerhead Shrike (5) numbers were below average for the fifth consecutive year. The few reported were found in the eastern and southern parts of the state. Northern Shrikes (17) were also below the average of 24. As expected, they were most common in the Northern Third and absent from the Southern Third.

Blue Jays (4,095) were found on every count, but were slightly below the average of 4,149. The Westfield count's three Black-billed Magpies were the only ones found this year. American Crows (59,679) were below the average for the fourth year in a row, but did increase from last season. Horned Larks (334) were hard to find again this year without snow cover. Black-capped Chickadee (7,143) numbers were up slightly while Tufted Titmouse (708) dropped below the average of 806 for the first time in five years. Starting in the early 1990s, Red-breasted Nuthatches have consistently erupted every other year with counts of 65, 697, 94, 380, 52, 366, 42, 300, 21, and last year, 311. Predictably, this was a down year with only 26 being found. White-breasted Nuthatch (3,192) on the other hand, was found in record numbers and on all counts. Brown Creepers (416) also had a great year and were missed by only four counts. After two down years, wrens made a huge comeback this winter. The Carolina (85) and Winter (49) wren totals seem to be all-time records for

both species. Carolina Wrens were most common on Mississippi River counts (59%) while Winter Wrens were almost evenly split between the Mississippi (43%) and the Middle Third (45%). The Shenandoah count found two Marsh Wrens and Keokuk had one during the count week. This species has now been found in six of the last 10 count seasons. Kinglets also had a good year. Golden-crowned (157) was above the 10-year average of 125, while Ruby-crowned (5) was above its average of three.

Thrushes and mimids had a great showing in terms of diversity. Five thrush species were found this year. Eastern Bluebird (185) numbers were slightly above average despite being nearly unreported from the Northern and Southern Thirds. American Robins (763) were scarce after last year's record total, but it was one of the best counts ever for Hermit Thrush (12). They seemed to prefer the river valleys with five on Mississippi counts, five on Missouri counts, and singles at Des Moines and Iowa City. A Townsend's Solitaire at Cherokee and a Varied Thrush at Sioux City were both excellent CBC birds. A Varied Thrush at Spirit Lake was seen during the count week but wasn't around on count day. All three of the somewhat expected mimids were found this year. The biggest surprise of the season had to be the new record high Gray Catbird (6) total. This species had not been recorded during the past five counts and had a previous high count of three. Five of the six catbirds were found in the Middle Third. A single Northern Mockingbird was found on the Carroll County count. This species seems to have become less common and more erratic in occurrence on recent CBCs. Mason City, Iowa City, and Humboldt County all had single Brown Thrashers, a typical number for the species.

Coming off a record year, European Starling (49,932) returned to near average numbers. Cedar Waxwings (3,051) were numerous and widespread this season. Yellow-rumped Warblers (36) were above the 10-year average of 28. They were most numerous in the Southern Third (42%) and on the Mississippi River (42%). Eleven towhees were found this season. The seven Spotted Towhees is three times the 10-year average. The Boone County and Westfield counts each found three of this uncommon Iowa species. Four Eastern Towhees were found which is exactly at the 10-year average. Most of our regular occurring winter sparrows were found in above average numbers this winter. Swamp (247) and White-throated (763) both set new record highs. Song (843), Fox (40), Harris's (316), and White-crowned (74) all were above their averages as was Dark-eyed Junco (18,832). American Tree Sparrow (10,153), while still numerous, was the only common sparrow to be counted in below average numbers. Rare wintering sparrows this year included four Field Sparrows, four Lincoln's Sparrows, and a single Chipping Sparrow found at Saylorsville. As expected with the lack of snow cover, both Lapland Longspur (32) and Snow Bunting (128) were extremely difficult to find. Northern Cardinals (6012) were found in above average numbers after being down last year.

Icterids were another group that had an extraordinary year. Meadowlarks (99) were the one exception, being difficult to find like other open country birds. Red-winged Blackbirds (10,448) were found at more than twice the 10-year average. The Rusty Blackbird (297) count was the highest in over ten years. They were reported from all parts of the state with 52% being in the Middle Third. Shenandoah had 18 Brewer's Blackbirds, single-handedly exceeding the average of ten. Common Grackles (957) more than doubled the average of 459, largely due to a count of 710 at Davenport. Brown-headed Cowbirds (1,422) were also well above average of 836. Seventy-nine percent were found on Mississippi River counts.

It was quite possibly the worst winter ever for finches. Purple Finch (110) was well below the average of 542. Nine Pine Siskins may be the lowest count ever. Neither crossbill was reported and it has now been six years since the last Evening Grosbeak was found. A single Common Redpoll reported from Burlington is inexplicable in a year in which this species did not erupt south. House Finch (1,866) numbers were very low for the second consecutive year. The only bright spot in this group was American Goldfinch (5,494). It was found near the 10-year average for the first time in five years. House Sparrows (24,402) continue to decline and two counts did not even report it this year(?). Eurasian Tree Sparrows (461) were down again this year, yet still remained above the average of 312.

NOTABLE MISSES

As usual, a few somewhat expected species were missed. This year the list included Horned Grebe (3 of last 5 years), Black Scoter (5 of last 10 years), Golden Eagle (8 of last 10 years), Bonaparte's Gull (5 of last 10 years), Savannah Sparrow (3 of last 5 years), Yellow-headed Blackbird (3 of last 5 years), Great-tailed Grackle (6 of last 10 years), Red Crossbill (7 of last 10 years), and White-winged Crossbill (3 of last 5 years).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

Several unexpected birds were found this season. A Barrow's Goldeneye at Sioux City is the third CBC record for the species. A well-described House Wren, on the Illinois side of the Davenport count, is the second-ever for an "Iowa" CBC. An American Pipit was found for the second year in a row, this one on the Clinton count. Amazingly, another Ovenbird turned up this year. This second CBC record, found at Iowa City, comes right on the heels of last year's first-ever count record. The Shenandoah count found the third warbler species for the year — a Common Yellowthroat. This is about the fifth yellowthroat found on a CBC.

Documentation was received for the above rare birds and has been forwarded to the Records Committee. Again this year, most reports included documentation or details when necessary. The Turkey Vulture, Ovenbird, and both Varied Thrush reports included much-appreciated, identifiable photographs. The only reports that were not accepted due to a lack of documentation or details were 5 Field Sparrows at Neal Smith NWR and 25 Eurasian Tree Sparrows at Sac County. My best guess is that both of these reports refer to American Tree Sparrows, the former based on misidentification and the latter, a recording error. Much harder to deal with were documented reports of an Osprey and a flock of Blue-winged Teal. There was nothing inconsistent with Osprey in the documentation provided, however it did not rule out a pale Red-tailed Hawk or a young Bald Eagle. Osprey is a species that is extremely unlikely to be found in winter in Iowa, and I have not included this record in the final totals. I have forwarded it to the Records Committee, so it may get a second hearing. While Blue-winged Teal clearly does occur in early winter on occasion, the flock of eight reported this year seemed implausible for several reasons, and the description did not rule out the much more likely Northern Shoveler. I strongly encourage everyone to photograph rare and out-of-season birds if at all possible — it is very hard to argue with a good picture!

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Table 1. Site Data for 2002–2003 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total		Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow Depth	Wind	
		Species	Birds	Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	Hr	L			H
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River For	3 Jan	61	6591	18	6	42	341	18	4	40	0	0	7	35	0	W 0-10
2. Dubuque	28 Dec	51	7122	24	7	39	283.5	23	0	0	1	1	21	44	0	SW 5-15
3. Green Island	16 Dec	62	5600	10	6	36	340	2.5	6.5	82	0	0	22	35	0	0
4. Clinton	18 Dec	69	11092	10	4	38	357	68	4	51	0	0	43	58	0	S 20-30
5. Princeton	23 Dec	54	5913	6	4	31.25	217	7	2.25	27	0	0	22	34	0	W 10-20
6. Davenport	15 Dec	73	23580	24	8	64.25	443	23.25	5.75	35	8	14	37	52	0	NW 0-5
7. Andalusia	26 Dec	66	6423	5	4	32.75	317	4	4	29	0	0	16	36	0	SW 0-5
8. Muscatine	22 Dec	57	10640	9	4	37.54	387	4.5	4.5	64	6	12	27	40	0	SW 20-30
9. West Mercer Co.	27 Dec	62	4907	7	4	36.25	236	5	5	53	0	0	24	34	0	S 5-10
10. Burlington	21 Dec	73	10527	14	5	40	248	2	2	15	4	19	24	42	0	W 10-15
11. Keokuk	16 Dec	80	42444	7	5	42.5	385	0	0	0	1	3	32	38	0	SE 15-20
MISSOURI RIVER																
12. Westfield	4 Jan	48	4619	23	6	n/a	312	12	0	0	2	6	32	43	0	NW 2-20
13. Sioux City	21 Dec	69	15439	21	10	62	479	31.5	1.25	0.7	2	8	17	30	0	WNW 0-14
14. Omaha, NE	21 Dec	66	19992	39	12	70.75	382.5	29.25	3	17	3	3.5	19	39	0	NW 0-10
15. Stenandoah	21 Dec	67	35948	28	6	49	358	21.75	2.25	31	15	30	17	34	0	NNW 1-4
NORTHERN THIRD																
16. Decorah	26 Dec	52	5712	14	4	31	292	11	1	5	4	4	4	38	0	S 0-5
17. Bremer County	14 Dec	44	3262	7	3	23	215	21	1	7	0	0	14	54	0	NE 5-7
18. Mason City	14 Dec	45	12671	13	6	45.5	309	17	1	0	5	10	19	51	0	0-5
19. Worth County	18 Dec	42	11177	4	3	27	135	16	0	0	0	0	43	46	0	SW 10-15
20. Spirit Lake	14 Dec	58	24978	8	3	20	319	2	0.25	0	25	200	28	57	0	SW 10-15
21. Humboldt County	27 Dec	38	1865	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
22. Cherokee	14 Dec	40	3039	5	4	23	348	2	1.5	15	12	6	24	55	0	SSW 0-10

Table 1. Site Data for 2002–2003 Christmas Bird Counts

MIDDLE THIRD																
23. Lost Nation	17 Dec	53	5032	16	5	45.75	370	10.75	2	21	0	0	33	38	0	E 0-10
24. North Linn	28 Dec	49	3646	10	5	44	360	6	4	47	2	6	25	48	0	S 5-15
25. Cedar Rapids	14 Dec	70	15092	15	7	69.5	433	20	8	80	5	8	30	55	0	W 0-20
26. Iowa City	15 Dec	71	11488	34	11	75.75	562	24.2	2.5	11	14	59.5	32	53	0	E 0-10
27. Amana	28 Dec	39	1102	12	3	17	40	9	3	8	0	0	27	46	0	S 8-12
28. Cedar Falls Water.	15 Dec	55	15566	8	4	26	259	15	1	2	3	8	20	44	0	NE 5-10
29. Grinnell	4 Jan	24	1051	10	2	27	70	24	0	0	2	12	16	36	0	NW 0-5
30. Marshalltown	14 Dec	37	5123	16	4	24.5	224	0	0	0	5	25	18	33	0	S 2-5
31. Eldora Union	18 Dec	41	2163	4	2	17	145.3	6	1	8.3	1	n/a	46	54	0	W SW 10-20
32. Southeast Webster	29 Dec	36	788	10	2	9	135	2	0.5	10	0	0	na	na	0	NW 5-15
33. Ames	14 Dec	58	16031	40	17	82	405.5	51.5	1.75	21	6	12	13	55	0	n/a
34. Boone County	1 Jan	54	9762	43	22	121.25	527.5	68.5	8.5	74	24	42	21	30	0	NE 5-15
35. Saylorville	15 Dec	73	25440	26	9	83	511	34	3	38	0	0	28	59	0	n/a
36. Des Moines	21 Dec	64	29822	20	6	51	370	22	4	50	5	11	18	36	0	W 0-10
37. Neal Smith NW R	28 Dec	27	805	9	5	45	7	27	0	0	0	0	26	57	0	W 7-14
38. Jamaica	17 Dec	59	16247	7	4	30.5	363	7	1.75	21	0	0	33	39	0	E 10-21
39. Union County	23 Dec	58	8218	4	2	18.5	217	4.5	0.5	6	0	0	22	34	0	NW 5-12
40. Carroll County	29 Dec	37	5418	5	2	16	110	3	0	0	3	3.5	30	59	0	S 5-20
41. Sac County	28 Dec	28	3708	6	3	13	105	6	0	0	3	15	20	48	0	W 7-10
42. Ma County	28 Dec	45	5779	18	5	40	317	11	1.5	0.5	4	11	27	58	0	W 5-10
SOUTHERN THIRD																
43. Taylor Co.	28 Dec	33	2452	3	1	9	105	1	0	0	1	9	32	54	0	SSW 2-4
44. Starn-Hopkins	21 Dec	31	826	2	1	10	80	2	0	0	1	8	23	32	0	N 0-10
45. Rathbun Res.	14 Dec	69	25587	25	8	58.5	507	9	3.75	39	5	34.5	24	50	0	NW 5-15
46. Red Rock Res.	14 Dec	62	41709	7	5	29	298	8	1.5	12	1	2	20	53	0	SW 5-15
TOTAL													759761			

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2002–2003

Location	Am Wh Pe	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Gr W-f Go	Sn Go	Ro Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma
MISSISSIPPI RIVER															
1. Yellow River Forest							13		1		1	23		15	2222
2. Dubuque							396		2	1		3			667
3. Green Island			4				998	5	1	30		24	4	10	2715
4. Clinton			18				1267			11	1	116	87	11	16595
6. Princeton			2				154						2		1590
6. Davenport		14	8	3			3294	1	2			10		4	1118
7. Andalusia					1		603	2				3			73
8. Muscatine			9				692							2	650
9. W. Mercer Co.			26				170						52	10	22120
10. Burlington	1		81		2		2437		2				45	2	350
11. Keokuk		1	6				633		1	64	3	2			92
Subtotal	1	15	154	3	3	0	10677	8	9	106	5	181	190	54	48195
MISSOURI RIVE															
12. Westfield				4			603						12		305
13. Sioux City	1			1200		3	3712		2	33	6	1			10016
14. Omaha, NE	1		1	12352		1	671	4				1			432
15. Shenandoah			3	4850		2	166			23	10	2	26		45767
Subtotal	2	0	4	0	18406	6	5152	4	2	56	16	4	38	0	56520
NORTHERN THIRD															
16. Decorah			2				1025								10
17. Bremer County							302						5		1065
18. Mason City			1				3566	6	3		1	1		2	912
19. Worth Co.							7500							1	2005
20. Spirit Lake			2	5		1	20390			15					39
21. Humboldt Co.							600								37
22. Cherokee					1		398								37
Subtotal	0	0	5	5	1	1	33781	6	3	15	1	1	5	3	4068
MIDDLE THIRD															
23. Lost Nation			1				265	1							63
24. North Linn							1008					2		1	146
25. Cedar Rapids			2		4		3673		4	3		3		1	555
26. Iowa City			3				1901			2		2	110	2	7220
27. Amana															16
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			1	1	35		2535	4		2	1	8	1	3	1236
29. Grinnell							560								32
30. Marshalltown		1		5			3550								26
31. Eldora-Union			1		1		1000				3				3
32. Southeast Webster			1				110	2							3
33. Ames			4		3		1851		1						104
34. Boone County							50								1
35. Saylorville Reservoir				6			2150				1	8	40	2	1838
36. Des Moines				15			7000				5	2	4	2	581
37. Neal Smith NWR															
38. Jamaica			1	6	7	1	11917			2		7	2	4	2300
39. Union County				1	3		3381			10	11	6	8	3	9380
40. Carroll County							2450								52
41. Sac County							2100								50
42. Ida County			1				1362								105
Subtotal	0	1	15	34	53	1	46863	7	5	19	21	38	165	18	23708
SOUTHERN THIRD															
43. Taylor County							1400								2
44. Siam-Hopkins							70								10492
45. Rathbun Reservoir		15	7				3143			9		10	1	4	3400
46. Red Rock Reservoir	5		1	2	7	1	4220			5		1			159
Subtotal	5	15	8	2	7	1	8833	0	0	14	0	12	1	4	14053
TOTAL	8	31	186	44	18470	9	105306	25	19	210	43	236	399	79	146544

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2002–2003

Location	Ma	No Sh	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me
MISSISSIPPI RIVER														
1. Yellow River Forest	518										3		5	
2. Dubuque	1011	19							2		1	51	430	
3. Green Island	938			1							20	1	27	
4. Clinton	2760	3			15	1	1		29	1	58	3	1140	1
4. Princeton	112								6		164		113	2
6. Davenport	1329			1	54	3	7		145	16	187		9	
7. Andalusia	297		2						1	5	67		1	
8. Muscatine	265				11				8				12	
9. W. Mercer Co.	84										6		14	
10. Burlington	116				9				18	7	32	1	16	
11. Keokuk	828		3	9	15000	7	169	3	890	6	905	8	59	
Subtotal	8158	22	5	11	15089	11	177	3	1099	39	1443	64	1826	3
MISSOURI RIVER														
12. Westfield	590										4			
13. Sioux City	3542		3	1			8				169	3	14	
14. Omaha, NE	449			5						8	160		294	1
15. Shenandoah	25281	3	3	46		4	48		19			3	308	1
Subtotal	29862	3	6	52	0	4	56	0	19	8	333			
NORTHERN THIRD														
16. Decorah	115													
17. Bremer County	105													
18. Mason City	1093											1		
19. Worth Co.	1535		1										4	
20. Spirit Lake	2223							1	11	2	245	7	29	
21. Humboldt Co.	40													
22. Cherokee	176													
Subtotal	5287	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	2	245	8	33	0
MIDDLE THIRD														
23. Lost Nation	17													
24. North Linn	75													
25. Cedar Rapids	2096		1	1					40		83	37	17	
26. Iowa City	3084	2		1							1		16	
27. Amana														
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1113		5	7								2	5	
29. Grinnell	150			1										
30. Marshalltown	122													
31. Eldora-Union	150		3				4							
32. Southeast Webster	35												7	
33. Ames	447		1			1			1					
34. Boone County	12													
35. Saylorville Reservoir	6720	97	6	1					3		3		3500	3
36. Des Moines	3168		2			6	9	1	14	2	43	15	31	
37. Neal Smith NWR														
38. Jamaica	1900												36	
39. Union County	2855	6	1	2			7		16		18	1	25	
40. Carroll County	775													
41. Sac County	600													
42. Ida County	26													
Subtotal	23345	105	19	13	0	7	20	1	74	2	148	55	3637	3
SOUTHERN THIRD														
43. Taylor County	25													
44. Siam-Hopkins														
45. Rathbun Reservoir	7755		8	2	1		27			15	10	6	10000	
46. Red Rock Reservoir	8600		2		2		2	6	13		111	24	8300	2
Subtotal	16380	0	10	2	3	0	29	6	13	15	121	30	18300	2
TOTAL	83032	130	41	78	15092	22	282	11	1216	66	2290	160	24104	9

Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	No Go	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Am Ke	Me
		3		5		79	7	1	4	1		77	15	12	
2		1	51	430		139	1		5	1		67	4	19	
		20	1	27		78	2		4		1	61	1	16	
29	1	58	3	1140	1	286	1	1	2			35	1	14	
6	4	164		113	2	159	2	1	1			23		18	
145	16	187		9		63	1	2	2		1	46		24	
1	5	67		1		55		1			1	29	1	14	
8				12		88			2	1		56		46	
		6		14		226	2	1				29	1	16	
18	7	32	1	16		313		3	2			49	1	34	
890	6	905	8	59		264	3	2			1	17	1	17	
099	39	1443	64	1826	3	1747	19	12	22	3	4	479	25	230	0
		4				17	13	2	1			40	13	10	
		169	3	14		17		2	1			62	4	8	2
	8	160		294	1	48		4	1		1	81	1	21	
19						21	12	7	2			81	1	19	
19	8	333	3	308	1	103	25	15	5	0	1	264	19	58	2
						90	2	2	2			82	3	11	
						19		1	1		1	8	1	7	
			1			6		2	1			23	1	4	
11	2	245		4		5		3	3			6	1	2	
			7	29		5						14	1	2	
						8		1				10		4	1
						2						30		6	1
11	2	245	8	33	0	135	2	9	7	0	1	173	7	36	2
						39	8	1	3		3	50	10	34	
						22	1	3				40	1	18	
40		83	37	17		30		2	4			85	4	25	
		1		16		96	5	5	1			114	2	28	
						12						13	1	4	
			2	5		6		1	1		2	27	1	14	
												14		4	
						44	2					30		4	
						19			2			9	1	6	
				7		16						12		1	
1						7	1	2	7			70	1	12	
						30		5	4			87	2	16	
3		3		3500	3	24	3	4	5	1		101	1	16	
14	2	43	15	31		19		5	1			86		34	1
						1	2		1			11		1	
				36		9	3	1	1			14	2	1	
16		18	1	25		2	9		1			36	4	20	
						18		1				21		11	
						2						13		9	
								1	2			34	1	16	1
74	2	148	55	3637	3	396	34	31	33	1	5	867	31	283	2
						1	3		1			28		13	
						2	6					10	5	3	1
	15	10	6	10000		62	8		3	1		57		45	
13		111	24	8300	2	133	9	1	2			50	1	9	
13	15	121	30	18300	2	198	26	1	6	1	0	145	6	70	1
216	66	2290	160	24104	9	2579	106	68	73	5	11	1928	88	677	7

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2002–2003

Location	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Am Co	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu	Ro Do	Eu Co Do	Mo Do
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	10	94				1				321		68
2. Dubuque		54			2		764	6		355		229
3. Green Island		12		15	1		409	14		172		47
4. Clinton	3	3	15		4		135	674		165		41
4. Princeton	1	21					288	33		60		92
6. Davenport	2			2	2	1	2517	259	1	1637		564
7. Andalusia	1	1					340	65		156		271
8. Muscatine	3	35				1	338	20		532		710
9. W. Mercer Co.	1	1	10		2	12	190			116		275
10. Burlington	4	43			1	11	742	33	1	427		535
11. Keokuk		45	10	4	5		862	23		363		372
Subtotal	25	309	35	21	17	26	6585	1127	2	4304	0	3204
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Westfield	21	48								122		
13. Sioux City	10	152	5	1			8			863		
14. Omaha, NE	3	219	1			2	91	3		385		145
15. Shenandoah	36	3	12							101		26
Subtotal	70	422	18	1	0	2	99	3	0	1471	0	171
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah	13	22			3	2				413		26
17. Bremer County	11	1								46		122
18. Mason City	20									216		15
19. Worth Co.	3	22								119		
20. Spirit Lake	12	4		1	1		3	5		84	6	77
21. Humboldt Co.	8									58	6	
22. Cherokee	13	9								185		
Subtotal	80	58	0	1	4	2	3	5	0	1121	12	241
MIDDLE THIRD												
23. Lost Nation	20	116								34		34
24. North Linn	6	7								48		65
25. Cedar Rapids	11	30		1	3		651	75		1003		284
26. Iowa City	8	105					420	6		317		153
27. Amana	3	1				2	2			20		4
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	23									287		198
29. Grinnell	2											
30. Marshalltown	10									205		14
31. Eldora-Union	39									49		35
32. Southeast Webster	1	4								18		3
33. Ames	87	1								375		35
34. Boone County	23	104								201		27
35. Saylorville Reservoir	35	7					400	40	1	428		110
36. Des Moines	12	14		4			2089	92		339		191
37. Neal Smith NWR	53	1										50
38. Jamaica	4	26		1				2		23		45
39. Union County	6	8		1	3					41	26	
40. Carroll County	12	21								310		97
41. Sac County										34		
42. Ida County	27	23								147	2	22
Subtotal	382	468	0	7	6	2	3562	215	1	3879	28	1367
SOUTHERN THIRD												
43. Taylor County	11	101								54		11
44. Siam-Hopkins			1							3		
45. Rathbun Reservoir	5	44			1	2	810	425		176		50
46. Red Rock Reservoir		2			2		18000	160	1	97		
Subtotal	16	147	1	0	3	2	18810	585	1	330	0	61
TOTAL	573	1404	54	30	30	34	29059	1935	4	11105	40	5044

Ro Do	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo
321		68	12	3	2	3	3	2	9	25	97	1	90	18
355		229		1					4		40		59	8
172		47	11	6	7	9			6	2	60	2	78	21
165		41	1	4	4				5		32		21	9
60		92	1	8	1				8	1	22		35	12
1637		564	1	5	6				9	13	76	3	138	20
156		271	1	14	2	2			3	4	42	1	68	8
532		710	4	7	5				7	1	53	2	102	18
116		275	1	13	10	2			4	2	73	1	85	18
427		535	2	3	1				10	11	63	1	31	8
363		372		1	1				5	4	33	1	38	10
4304	0	3204	34	65	39	16	3	2	70	63	591	12	745	150
122			4	5	4	14	3	1			17		46	17
863			2	4	2			1	3	1	34		78	18
385		145	5		3				2	2	145	2	121	30
101		26		24	7	3				4	59		79	6
1471	0	171	11	33	16	17	3	2	5	7	255	2	324	71
413		26	3	1	3				17	1	42		43	12
46		122	2	1	2				1	30	32		35	8
216		15	1	5		6			1	1	20		42	18
119				2		11					9		24	6
84	6	77	3	1				1	1		27		53	22
185	6		1	1					1		9		33	8
1121	12	241	2	1	1				2	1	13		21	5
			12	12	6	17	0	1	23	33	152	0	251	79
34		34		5	4				2	8	42		60	10
48		65	5	9	2	2			6	13	41		57	10
1003		284	4	7	7	1			16	5	59	1	125	21
317		153		3	8	7		1	4	51	96	1	153	25
20		4		2	3			2	1	10	8		11	3
287		198	1	1	4	1		1	5	2	26		48	14
				2			1			2	4		7	3
205		14		3					4	30	26		26	2
49		35	1	1	1			1	2	1	16		21	2
18		3	1	2	1				1	6	10		18	6
375		35	1	3	7				9	2	118		172	27
201		27	24	23	7	1	3		10	12	220	2	342	88
428		110	13	21	7	20			5	9	122		163	32
339		191	3	2	6				13	3	93	1	111	14
		50									12		27	7
23		45	2	1	1				1	3	13		15	6
41	26		3	1	1	4					12		10	2
310		97	1	1	1	5			2		22		28	2
34					1					1	16		35	8
147	2	22	1			2			1	1	5		26	2
3879	28	1367	60	87	61	43	4	5	82	159	961	5	1455	284
54		11					1			2	7		12	2
3										1	4		12	
176		50	9	12	9	4	1		12	13	23	2	50	9
97					1	2			1	2	35		40	3
330	0	61	9	12	10	6	2	0	13	16	69	2	114	14
1105	40	5044	126	209	132	99	12	10	193	280	2028	21	2889	598

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2002–2003

Location	No Fl	Pi Wo	No Sh	Lo Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go C K
MISSISSIPPI RIVER															
1. Yellow River Forest	10	19			211	372		318	39	4	156	5		10	14
2. Dubuque	8	3			73	498		184	57	1	87	11			4
3. Green Island	16	7	1		147	219		117	25	2	92	10		2	11
4. Clinton	10	3			77	68	12	97	33		24	20	16		11
4. Princeton	8				38	33	71	116	16		54	17	2	1	10
6. Davenport	26	2			110	873		336	18		131	17	9	1	9
7. Andalusia	13	6	1	1	53	98	4	243	18		79	5	2		5
8. Muscatine	14	3			77	401	63	197	35		73	6	3	1	4
9. W. Mercer Co.	35	15		1	112	140		173	21		164	16	7		4
10. Burlington	37	11			124	395	16	134	28		62	9	7	2	4
11. Keokuk	5	2			135	15000		113	13		25	7	4	4	3
Subtotal	182	71	2	2	1157	18097	173	2028	303	7	947	123	50	21	68
MISSOURI RIVER															
12. Westfield	13		1		25	263		127			61	16			3
13. Sioux City	30		1		69	1210		207		2	43	8	2	1	4
14. Omaha, NE	79				88	223	24	470	49		245	18	7	3	15
15. Shenandoah	18				131	92	9	113	5		87	9			9
Subtotal	140	0	2	0	313	1788	33	917	54	2	436	51	9	4	31
NORTHERN THIRD															
16. Decorah	4	5	2		137	480		165	26	3	76			1	2
17. Bremer County	15	2			108	221		76			44	8			9
18. Mason City	4		3		100	5649		171			54	6			3
19. Worth Co.	5				58	75		67			14				9
20. Spirit Lake	7		3		69	77	12	231		2	87	6			3
21. Humboldt Co.	1				39	77		50			18	9		1	9
22. Cherokee	2				148	87	19	90		1	31	9			3
Subtotal	38	7	8	0	659	6666	31	850	26	6	324	38	0	2	3
MIDDLE THIRD															
23. Lost Nation	11				110	309	51	63	26		50	18	6	1	9
24. North Linn	10	5			133	62		119	14		84	6	1	1	1
25. Cedar Rapids	13	2			158	1250	10	294	31		104	17	3		3
26. Iowa City	35	2		1	166	595	3	317	59	1	99	14	11	1	3
27. Amana	9	1			26	30	5	34	2		19				2
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	3	1			39	8164		151			60	6		1	7
29. Grinnell					19	21		17			16	3			4
30. Marshalltown	3	2			68	93		71	3	3	26	1			3
31. Eldora-Union					46	59		22	5		28	4			2
32. Southeast Webster	14				41	82		25		1	17	2			3
33. Ames	9		1		150	7000		470	6	1	198	47			3
34. Boone County	16		2		184	797		637	83		296	16	1	10	9
35. Saylorville Reservoir	63		1		189	1082		373	11		101	5	1	3	1
36. Des Moines	50				96	12000		300	32		165	39	2	2	7
37. Neal Smith NWR	1				19	61		25	1		20	5			4
38. Jamaica	3				46	83	9	26	4		22	1		1	3
39. Union County	11		1		33	189	15	33	1		9	1			3
40. Carroll County					47	349		44	5		23	6			4
41. Sac County	1				19	31		44	4		32	2			1
42. Ida County	15				115	121	4	22	1	3	19	3			4
Subtotal	267	13	5	1	1704	32378	97	3087	288	9	1388	196	25	22	41
SOUTHERN THIRD															
43. Taylor County	11				14	152		26			13				3
44. Siam-Hopkins				1	6	134		29			20	2			7
45. Rathbun Reservoir	38			1	160	300		105	20	2	46	2			4
46. Red Rock Reservoir	25				82	164		101	17		18	4	1		14
Subtotal	74	0	0	2	262	750	0	261	37	2	97	8	1	0	14
TOTAL	701	91	17	5	4095	59679	334	7143	708	26	3192	416	85	49	157

Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Gr Ca	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fi Sp
4	156	5		10	14	7	1	39		898	79	4	577	
1	87	11			4	7		6		701	27		70	
2	92	10		2		63		14		173	251		156	
	24	20	16		11	6		60		2250	15		62	
	54	17	2	1	10			3		2710			135	
	131	17	9	1	9			4		5308	37		223	
	79	5	2		5	6	1	1		1045	4		367	
	73	6	3	1	4	5	3	6		2936		6	371	
	164	16	7		4	15		1		922	135		329	1
	62	9	7	2	4	17		7		2569	45	2	427	1
	25	7	4	4	3	12		2		4528	74	3	198	1
7	947	123	50	21	68	138	5	143	0	24040	667	15	2915	3
	61	16			3	2		51		927			385	
2	43	8	2	1	4	5		227		1729	141		564	
	245	18	7	3	15	16	2	58		807	105		329	
	87	9			9	3	3	31	1	1292	99		410	
2	436	51	9	4	31	26	5	367	1	4755	345	0	1688	0
3	76			1	2	2		9		901	213	3	182	
	44	8						2		681	23		267	
	54	6						22		432	70		63	
	14				1			15		593	28		162	
2	87	6								294	105		57	
	18	9		1						300	30		116	
1	31	9						2		1237	13		26	
6	324	38	0	2	3	2	0	50	0	4438	482	3	873	0
	50	18	6	1	9			2		757	32		287	1
	84	6	1	1	1	2				498	33		82	
	104	17	3		3	7		5	1	2158	23		281	
1	99	14	11	1	3	3	1		1	517	130		291	
	19									45	30		180	
	60	6						3		1425	20		133	
	16	3		1							11		24	
3	26	1							1	197	30			
	28	4						1		239	41		21	
1	17	2			2					84			76	
1	198	47			3			17	1	1777	103		258	
	296	16	1	10	9	1		3		1701	178		494	
	101	5	1	3	1	3		24	1	1897	157	3	990	
	165	39	2	2	7		1	130		1020	18		268	
	20	5								45			60	
	22	1		1		3		3		641	246		148	
	9	1			3			1		668	1		72	
	23	6						1		616	57		47	
	32	2						1		298				
3	19	3						5		844	277		378	
9	1388	196	25	22	41	19	2	196	5	15477	1387	3	4090	1
	13				3			1		42			222	
	20	2						5		220			65	
2	46	2			7					399	136	10	206	
	18	4	1		4			1		611	34	5	94	
2	97	8	1	0	14	0	0	7	0	1272	170	15	587	0
26	3192	416	85	49	157	185	12	763	6	49932	3051	36	10153	4

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2002–2003

Location	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest		18	16	9			911		127	102		
2. Dubuque		18	1	2			541		123			
3. Green Island		9	3	23			581		111	13		
4. Clinton		27	23	7			439		152	2		
4. Princeton		37	2	2			479	3	140			
6. Davenport	1	89	14	42		1	573	4	331	2700		
7. Andalusia		59	22	37		5	468		120	451	1	
8. Muscatine		28	5	8			551		216	406		
9. W. Mercer Co.		51	41	12	1	1	437		144	20	1	6
10. Burlington		14	64	16		1	480	4	204	6		1
11. Keokuk	4	44	5	45	4	11	500		180	47		
Subtotal	5	394	196	203	5	19	5940	11	1848	3747	2	7
MISSOURI RIVER												
12. Westfield					6		388	4	24	465		22
13. Sioux City		1	3	2	12		514		46			1
14. Omaha, NE		10	1	11	36	2	712		230	32	19	
15. Shenandoah		8	2	41	89	1	680		280	55	56	
Subtotal	0	19	6	54	143	3	2294	4	580	552	75	23
NORTHERN THIRD												
16. Decorah	10	10	1				538		86			22
17. Bremer County	7	3	2	7	6	8	285		138			
18. Mason City	1			18	3		319		51			
19. Worth Co.		4	2	2			195		6	215		5
20. Spirit Lake		1		1	2		132		18	58		56
21. Humboldt Co.		1	1		22		48	1	30	1		
22. Cherokee		1			3		220		6			
Subtotal	18	20	6	28	36	8	1737	1	335	274	0	83
MIDDLE THIRD												
23. Lost Nation	3	6	1	11		2	833	12	236	8		
24. North Linn		9	1	19			354	2	141	1		
25. Cedar Rapids	1	9		20		6	643		369	35		66
26. Iowa City	1	28	4	110		3	683		436	166	1	1
27. Amana		4	1	6		11	350		65			
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		4	1	1			328		88			
29. Grinnell				1			94		29			
30. Marshalltown				1			121		50			
31. Eldora-Union		2					102		26			23
32. Southeast Webster							74			32		
33. Ames	2	2			17	4	1013		306	5	1	15
34. Boone County	4	13	1	75	29	1	1350		276	545		
35. Saylorville Reservoir	3	114	3	28	41	4	702		477	3320		
36. Des Moines		112	10	97	1		642		252	3		
37. Neal Smith NWR		47	3	44			107		8	231		45
38. Jamaica	1	2			28	1	338	2	68	20		
39. Union County		18	6	48	3		213		37	30		3
40. Carroll County		4	1		3		64		22			
41. Sac County		6		1	5		87		34			
42. Ida County					2		277		24	1362		1
Subtotal	15	380	32	463	126	32	8355	16	2944	5758	2	154
SOUTHERN THIRD												
43. Taylor County					4		90		38			
44. Siam-Hopkins		5				2	51		15		6	30
45. Rathbun Reservoir		6	3	15	2	10	207	2	187	7	14	
46. Red Rock Reservoir	2	19	4				158	10	65	110		
Subtotal	2	30	7	15	6	12	506	12	305	117	20	30
TOTAL	40	843	247	763	316	74	18832	74	6012	10448	99	297

Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
102					9	97	304	718	
13					16	48	108	851	
2			37	18		1	105	398	
700			1	8		30	57	624	
451	1		710	589	3	64	181	692	
406				400	1	7	58	775	4
20	1	6	1	102		169	220	1669	35
6		1	1			2	162	416	127
47			5	4	1	48	153	454	221
747	2	7	6	4	6	54	154	481	74
			761	1125	36	536	1591	7655	461
465		22	3		1		52	175	
		1	4		14	62	119	447	
32	19				1	38	194	904	
55	56		133	27		50	226	1003	
552	75	23	140	27	16	150	591	2529	0
		22			1	49	150	698	
						31	44	547	
						42	37	571	
215		5	2	3		38	18	335	
58		56	4	3		65	32	462	
1						8	21	300	
			1		8	19	62	186	
274	0	83	7	6	9	252	364	3099	0
8			1		7	51	41	1320	
1				104		24	72	426	
35		66	1	2	2	88	169	900	
166	1	1	1	1	15	70	204	909	
				25		12	120	25	
						76	40	588	
						2	64		
		23	8		6	32	39	288	
				40			34	102	
32			4	18			16	50	
5	1	15				206	222	853	
545					6	65	734	881	
320			29	24	5	90	508	992	
3						77	216	954	
231		45					4		
20			1		2	39	67	312	
30		3		9		2	11	336	
						9	29	310	
			2			3	38	288	
362		1		3	3	8	61	527	
758	2	154	47	226	46	854	2689	10061	0
				35			19	98	
	6	30				15	20	75	
7	14		2	3	2	33	95	702	
110					1	26	125	183	
117	20	30	2	38	3	74	259	1058	0
448	99	297	957	1422	110	1866	5494	24402	461

**Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts—
2002–2003**

Species	Counts
Common Loon	Rathbun(1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Andalusia(1), Cedar Rapids(2), Keokuk(2)
Turkey Vulture	Iowa City(1)
Tundra Swan	Clinton(8), Princeton(1)
Mute Swan	Clinton(1), Cedar Falls-Waterloo(1)
Long-tailed Duck	Des Moines(2)
White-winged Scoter	Keokuk(1)
Barrow's Goldeneye	Sioux City(1)
Ruddy Duck	Sioux City(1), Keokuk(12)
Peregrine Falcon	Davenport(1), Cedar Rapids(1)
Gray Partridge	Ames(3)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah(1), Yellow River(1)
Glaucous Gull	Burlington(1), Spirit Lake(1), Red Rock(1—count week)
Shrike sp.	Humboldt(1)
Black-billed Magpie	Westfield(3)
House Wren	Davenport(1)
Marsh Wren	Shenandoah(2), Keokuk(1—count week)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Muscatine(1), Des Moines(4)
Townsend's Solitaire	Cherokee(1)
Varied Thrush	Sioux City(1), Spirit Lake(1—count week)
Northern Mockingbird	Carroll County(1)
Brown Thrasher	Iowa City(1), Mason City(1), Humboldt County(1)
American Pipit	Clinton(1)
Ovenbird	Iowa City(1)
Common Yellowthroat	Shenandoah(1)
Eastern Towhee	Boone County(2), Saylorville(1), North Linn(1)
Spotted Towhee	Boone County(3), Saylorville(1), Westfield(3)
Chipping Sparrow	Saylorville(1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Keokuk(2), Bremer County(1), Shenandoah(1)
Snow Bunting	Saylorville(52), Cedar Falls-Waterloo(51), Rathbun(25)
Brewer's Blackbird	Shenandoah(18)
Pine Siskin	Spirit Lake(6), Davenport(3)
Common Redpoll	Burlington(1)

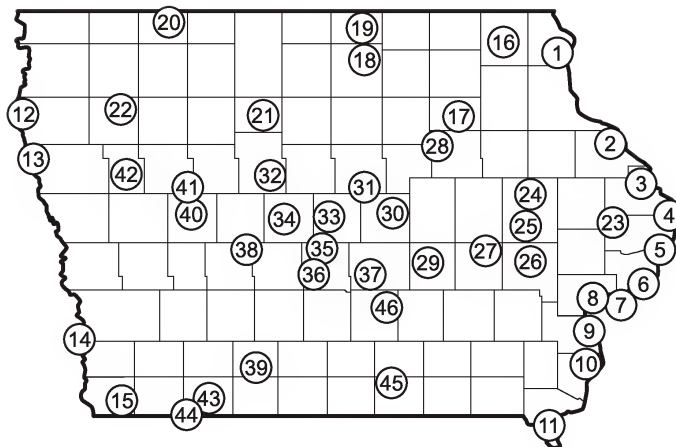


Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 2002–2003.



Red-shouldered Hawk stayed in residential area near Camp Dodge in Johnston, Polk Co. for over a month, 11–18 February 2003. Photo by Jay Gilliam.

Crested Caracara in Buena Vista County, Iowa

Richard Lampe

On Saturday, September 28, I was driving north on the old U.S. Highway 71 bypass at 3:20 p.m. As I approached a location 3 1/2 miles north of Storm Lake (Sec. 10, T. 91N, R 37W, Buena Vista County), I noticed a carcass of a raccoon along the eastern edge of the highway and a bird standing beside it and feeding on it. As I passed, the remarkable color of the bird caught my attention.

At that moment, I wasn't certain what I had seen but thought that it was unusual. I slowed my vehicle quickly and at the first opportunity turned my vehicle around. Fortunately I had my camera with me and I quickly attached a 300 mm lens. I drove slowly to within about 75 meters (m) of the carcass and I could see that the bird was still standing beside the carcass though it was not feeding but standing erect a short distance from the carcass.

I took several photos of the bird from this distance and then allowed my vehicle to advance slowly. I hoped that I could get closer to the bird for a better image but when I was still about 50 m away, the bird flew to the east across a corn field. I quickly snapped several pictures of it as it flew and then I watched as it circled southward to land in a row of mature cottonwood trees near an intersection. I drove to this area and searched the trees but could not spot the bird again.

The features that first caught my attention were the large and slender size of the bird, its dark wings, white throat, long yellow legs, red mask across its face, and a black cap. In flight, the dorsal view of the bird exhibited white tail feathers with a black distal one-third. Proximal portions of primary flight feathers also were white. I had seen Crested Caracara in Central America many years ago and thought that it was interesting enough to bring it to the attention of Daryl Howell (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) on the following Monday.

Given its reluctance to allow me approach, it seems plausible that this was a wild bird. Nearest caracaras held in zoos (St. Louis, Grand Rapids, and Cambridge, Ontario) were all present so this is not an escapee. Ben Ohlander, former president of Minnesota and Nebraska Falconers Association, (pers. comm. to Matt Kenne) noted that caracaras are not held by falconers.

Recent sightings of Crested Caracara have occurred in the Great Plains, Canada, and New England. Bert Frenz, subregional editor of *North American Birds* remarked that in the Central Prairie and East Texas region of Texas, "Crested Caracaras are making a concerted movement northward in Texas, with many sightings in areas where they have been scarce or nonexistent in the past and increased numbers where they have been uncommon



*Crested Caracara, 28 September 2002,
near Storm Lake, Buena Vista Co, IA.
Photo by Richard Lampe.*

previously" (Frenz 2002). There also is a developing pattern of extralimital records within the past decade starting in 1994 (Minnesota and Ontario); 1997 (Colorado), 1998 (British Columbia), 1999 (Massachusetts), 2000 (Ontario), 2001 (Alabama and South Dakota), and 2002 (California, New Brunswick, and northern Oklahoma). Although not all of these records were accepted by the respective state/provincial Records Committees, these records suggest a growing tendency of this species to enter previously unoccupied ranges.

Acknowledgements: Matt Kenne and Ann Johnson provided information regarding other regional sightings.

LITERATURE CITED

Frenz, B. 2002. *Seasonal Sightings for Regional Prairie and East Texas*. <<http://www.bafrenz.com/birds/Winter200102.htm>> (2 May 2003)

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Special Board Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

10 November 2002

A special IOU board meeting was held at the Oak Woods Learning Center at Saylorville Lake. President Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. In attendance were Tom Johnson; Hank Zaetel, vice president; Susan Spieker, secretary; Rita Goranson, treasurer; board members Judy Garton, John Ruttenbeck, Sharon Stilwell, Richard Tetrault, and Linda Zaetel. IOU members present were Jay Gilliam and Bob Cecil.

Minutes from Fall Meeting. Tom Johnson read the minutes from the fall meeting. Hank Zaetel corrected an error in the minutes stating that Tom Kent reported that all records, field reports, and photos have been sent to the Iowa State Historical Society. They were indeed sent to the Archives and Special Collections at Iowa State University. The minutes were amended. Hank Zaetel moved and Rita Goranson seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Rita Goranson provided a financial report. Deposits for FY2002 to date are \$12,383.89, \$4,665 of which was from contributions from members. Thanks to those who made contributions.

Expenses for the Year 2002 to date are \$15,377.74, \$12,130 of which went to publishing the *Iowa Bird Life*. Present balance is \$6,803.57.

John Ruttenbeck moved and Hank Zaetel seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

IOU Conservation Fund Proposal. Jay Gilliam proposed that the IOU become an active partner with the Iowa DNR and the Audubon Iowa IBA by raising matching dollars through our memberships by establishment of an IOU Conservation Fund. He asked for board approval to (1) market donations for conservation through the annual membership renewal form and (2) have IOU act as a conduit for funding of conservation projects through the Conservation Committee and an IOU Conservation Fund. Jay presented various ways we could generate funds through self-monitoring and self-contri-

butions. His proposal will be presented to the membership at the spring meeting in Waterloo.

Survey Results and Discussion. Survey results were confidential. The money to do the survey came out of the "Save the Songbird Fund" to which IOU has been contributing. So far 91 have been returned with 400 sent out. That is about a 23% return. There are still surveys coming in. There were many favorable comments about IOU. Many people liked the idea of advertising in the newsletter. Comments on the spring and fall meetings were favorable. Field trips received the highest praise.

There were many comments on *Iowa Bird Life*. Some people felt that the journal shouldn't be changed. Some thought the margins could be changed to make smaller issues. Also, some had ideas for using different paper and making it less costly. There were even a few comments about putting the IBL on the web.

There were more people in favor of increasing dues than against it. Most people thought we should reduce the cost of the *IBL*. Many were in favor of a graduated dues base.

Finance Committee Report. Because the publications are the main concern with regard to finances, it was decided that we need the money to continue to put out the top quality publications that we do. So we need to make decisions on how we can do that. We can't come up with the money needed in just one way. We need to use several things to help increase our income. We need to reduce expenses and increase income.

WAYS TO INCREASE INCOME

Advertising: We need to include advertising to the newsletter. There are five or six companies that would possibly advertise in the newsletter. Linda Zaletel will work on an advertising committee and Susan Spieker volunteered to help with this. Linda will work on a policy for advertising.

Graduated Dues Structure: John Rutenbeck made the following motion for graduated membership dues that was seconded by Linda Zaletel. The motion carried.

Fledgling	\$12.00 (Student)
Goldfinch	\$20.00 (Regular)
Bluebird	\$35.00
Baltimore Oriole	\$50.00
Great Egret	\$75.00
Osprey	\$100.00
Bald Eagle	\$250.00
Peregrine Falcon	\$500.00

Reduce *IBL* Cost: Bob Cecil, Hank Zaletel, and Jim Dinsmore will get together with Kay and discuss reducing *IBL* cost. We need to know cost per page. We need to take a look at reducing the margin and font sizes. The board also looked into the possibility of combining two issues. Dick Tetrault made a motion to combine issues three and four into one, seconded by Judy Garton. This motion was amended subject to the approval and agreement of the editor, Kay Niyo.

Increase Meeting Registration Fee: The spring and fall meetings registration fee could be increased by \$5 or \$10 with the extra money going into the General Fund.

Increase Membership: The Membership Committee needs to be revitalized and start promoting the organization. Also we need to contact past members who didn't renew and try to get them to rejoin.

Dick Tetrault moved and Linda Zaletel seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Board Meeting 2003

6 April 2003

The IOU spring board meeting was held at the Oak Woods Learning Center at Saylorville Lake. President Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were Tom Johnson; Hank Zaletel, vice president; Susan Spieker, secretary; Rita Goranson, treasurer; board members Judy Garton, Sharon Stilwell, Richard Tetrault, Linda Zaletel. IOU members present were Bob Cecil, Jay Gilliam, Marlene Ehresman, Ric Zarwell, and Betty Zarwell.

Secretary's Report. Susan Spieker read the minutes from the last meeting. Hank Zaletel moved and Judy Garton seconded the motion to approve the minutes as read. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Rita Goranson gave a report on IOU finances. Rita stated that revenues were up and sales stayed the same. Two CDs were cashed to meet operating expenses. Expenses were still high as the cost of publishing the IOU *Iowa Bird Life* was still high for 2002.

Landowner's Guide. Marlene Ehresman gave a presentation about a booklet that is being published by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The booklet is called *A Bird's Eye View*. The booklet defines Neotropical migrants, discusses reasons for their decline and need for habitat enhancement, and contains brief summaries of habitat management issues. The final version will have a color cover and color insert of a gallery of birds. This publication has been peer reviewed. Marlene would like the IOU to contribute money to help with this publication.

Publication Committee Report. Publication Committee members Jim Dinsmore, Paul Hertz (IOU *News* editor), Ann Johnson, Tom Kent (chair), and Kay Niyo (IBL editor) have been functioning as a committee by e-mail since notification of their appointment by the Board of Directors on 31 January 2003. The committee submitted for approval by the Board of Directors a written report that included a proposed FY2003 budget and revisions of the Publications Committee Bylaws. The budget consists of \$6,449 for IBL and \$1,475 for IOU *News* for a total of \$7,924. The board made the following minor changes to the bylaws:

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

2. Ordinarily the primary editors of printed and electronic publications will serve during their tenure of editorship. In case of co-editors, only one shall be a formal member of the committee; others may attend and participate. Other members who are not editors, of which there shall be at least two, may serve 5 years. The Executive Board may reappoint them after being off the committee for 2 years. Two terms shall be staggered. One term shall end in 2005 and one end in 2007.

FINANCES

2. No monies shall be expended beyond the approved budget, plus a 15% unforeseeable cost overrun. Significant cost overruns exceeding 15% of projected budget shall be reported to the committee and/or the President for approval.

These changes to the bylaws will have to be voted on.

Advertising Report. Linda Zaletel reported that letters have been sent to potential companies including camera stores, nurseries, and bird specialty shops. When a company advertises in IOU *News*, they will receive one newsletter along with a thank you card. The IOU Board and the editors have overall

veto or approval over the advertisements. Linda also set up a few basic dos and don'ts for advertising. Deadline for ads in the next issue of *IOU News* will be May 1st.

Donations. IOU received a donation of \$5,000.00 from the Leonard Larson estate.

Money Match Donations. An anonymous member has contacted Jim Dinsmore. He would like to donate a certain amount of money to IOU by doing a challenge match. He would give "x" amount of money provided that the membership would match that amount. The member also would like to know what the money would be used for. More discussion on this will follow.

Fiscal Agent. Carl Bendorf has served as the fiscal agent for 12 years. President Tom Johnson has stepped up to take his place. Hank Zaletel moved and Linda Zaletel seconded a motion to accept Tom as the new fiscal agent. The motion passed.

Registrar's Report. Dave Edwards gave a report on membership registrations. In light of the current financial trouble some Life Members have given additional contributions. He suggested that when people join in the middle of the year, they get *IOU News* and *Iowa Bird Life* for all of that year.

Supplies. Linda Zaletel presented designs for shirts and patches for the board to vote on. The board picked a design. Dick Tetrault moved and Judy Garton seconded the motion to authorize Linda to purchase the shirts and other supplies. The motion passed.

Conservation Committee Report. President Tom Johnson appointed Ric Zarwell, Jay Gilliam, and Jane Clark to the Conservation Committee. This committee will look at possible IOU conservation involvements.

Spring and Fall Meetings. The spring meeting will be in the Waterloo area 17–19 May 2003. Most activities will be at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Programs for the weekend will be range from Sandhill Cranes to Hawaii and presenters will include Jim Dinsmore, the Zaletels, Doug Harr, and Larry Stone.

The fall meeting will be 3–5 October 2003 in the Hitchcock area in the Loess Hills where the hawk watch is held every fall. The tentative site for spring 2004 will be in Shenandoah.

2003 Budget. The 2003 Budget was presented. Approximate budgeted expenses, \$16,364.00; approximate estimated income, \$17,902.00. Linda Zaletel moved and Hank Zaletel seconded the motion to approve the 2003 budget. The motion carried.

New Business. It was decided to change the Adopt a Book Fund (\$2,302.00) and to an Outside Projects Fund. At some future date guidelines will be provided for the Outside Projects Fund. The matter of a donation to the Landowner's guide, *A Bird's Eye View*, was brought up again. Hank Zaletel moved and Judy Garton seconded the motion to donate \$1,000.00, from the new Outside Projects Fund to the *Bird's Eye View* booklet. The motion carried.

Adjournment. Sharon Stilwell moved and Dick Tetrault seconded the motion to adjourn at 3:20 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT — RITA GORANSON, TREASURER

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2002

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

SUPPORT (Contributions and Gifts)

Iowa Bird Line	451.00	
Website	220.00	
Unspecified Contributions	5,043.00	
Memorial	434.51	
Total Contributions and Gifts		6,148.51

REVENUES

Membership/Subscriptions		
Regular Membership	8,829.00	
First Family Membership	436.00	
Second Family Membership	—	
Student Membership	24.00	
Life Membership	280.00	
Institutional Subscriber	160.00	
Total Membership Revenue		9,497.00
Sales		
IOU Materials	404.15	
Education Books	193.00	
IBL Back Issues Sales	10.00	
Used Book Sales	642.00	
Print Sales	160.00	
Web Sales	118.74	
Total Sales Revenue		1,527.89
Meeting Income	1,405.65	
Total Meeting Income		1,405.65
Interest Income		
Checking Account	10.51	
CD Cashed and Income	2,393.77	
CD Cashed and Income	3,085.88	
Total Income		5,490.16

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$24,069.21

EXPENSES

Publication Committee		
Iowa Bird Life	12,130.00	
IOU News	2,399.99	
Total Publications		14,529.99
Office Expenses		
President	—	
Registrar	440.13	
Total Officer Expense		440.13
Iowa Birdline	365.33	
IOU Materials Expense	—	
IOU Internet Site	401.79	
Records Committee	—	
Fall Meeting Expense	560.00	
Outside Project	—	
Purchase Prints	250.00	
Total		1,577.12

TOTAL EXPENSES \$16,547.24

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES \$7,521.97

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

The report on the spring meeting at Mount Vernon was the main article in the June 1953 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. The meeting was held on the campus of Cornell College and attracted 133 registrants. Field trips visited Palisades-Kepler State Park, Swan Lake, Muskrat Slough, Amana Lake, and Cedar Lake, places that would likely be visited if a meeting were held there now. Despite a cold rain, the Sunday field trip list contained a respectable 138 species. A major item of business was approval of a new constitution and bylaws for the organization. Those items and the articles of incorporation with the state of Iowa were published at the end of this issue. Another article, based on a recent thesis at Iowa State College, discussed nesting activities of Ring-necked Pheasants on two state wildlife areas in Emmet County.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014-3907 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)



Eastern Screech-Owl, gray phase, found along Magnolia Road near Ledges State Park, Boone Co., 23 December 2003. Photo by Jay Gilliam.



Two of a flock of nine Gray Partridges in seed corn company research fields in the middle of Johnston, Polk Co., 19 February 2003. Photo by Jay Gilliam.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Goldfinch \$20, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Additional family members, \$4 per person. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send subscriptions, membership payments, back issue requests, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent in Word or WordPerfect to the editor. Research manuscripts will be sent for peer review. Submission of material should be by email attachment or IBM-formatted 3.5" diskette; alternatively, by mail, typed or handwritten.

Photos and graphics: Submit photos and slides as TIFF (*.tif) images in e-mail attachment, on 3.5" diskette or CD, or by mail. All photos, slides, and graphics will be returned.

Send all materials other than seasonal field reports to Kayleen A. Niyo at Kay@KayNiyo.com or by mail to 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue (Vol. 1), April 1 for spring issue (2), July 1 for summer issue (3), October 1 for fall issue (4)**. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Paul Hertzell, Editor, 240 12th Street, S.E., Mason City, IA (phertzell@rconnect.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <<http://www.iowabirds.org>>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster. On-line resource for rare bird alerts, checklists, site guides, IOU information and membership. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 8712 Carole Circle, Apt. 14, Urbandale, IA 50322 (abrees@hotmail.com).

IOWA BIRDLINE: Pete Ernzen at (712) 365-2863 and mcdoolley@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes/membership subscriptions to Registrar David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (dcejce@qwest.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: 10–12 October 2003, Hitchcock Nature Area, Loess Hills

DESIGN: Lynn Ekblad, Ames, IA

GRAPHICS: Richard Beachler, Boone, IA

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